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December 19, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
7000 (ST-132)

EMS Transmission
Information Bulletin No. ST-2004-016

To: All Field Officials
From: Director, National Science and Technology Center
Subject: First Interagency Conference on Research in the Watersheds

The First Interagency Conference on Research in the Watersheds was held in Benson, Arizona during October 27-30, 2003. The Conference was organized by the Agricultural Research Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other Federal agencies with an objective of bridging the gap between researchers working at the watershed scale and stakeholders working on watersheds. In the cooperative spirit of this conference, the BLM provided assistance and financial support through the Arizona State Office and National Science and Technology Center.

The meeting organizers specifically designed this conference to be a one-stop shopping point for stakeholders to get a comprehensive overview of watershed research by all of the major federal agencies conducting watershed research. For those aware of the Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed near Tombstone, Arizona, the Conference was scheduled to coincide with the 50th anniversary of this renowned watershed data collection and study area. Concurrent technical sessions focused on research results at the watershed scale and strived to emphasize practical applications in land management. Watershed modeling, experimental watersheds, hydrology, and erosion were some of the themes featured at the conference with roughly 150 papers presented during two days of technical presentations.

We feel that the Conference proceedings should be of interest to those involved in watershed analyses, assessments and planning. The proceedings (753 pages) can be accessed at <http://www.tucson.ars.ag.gov/unit/ICRW.htm>. Plans are underway to hold the Second Interagency Conference on Research in the Watersheds in 2005 at the USDA Forest Service Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in Otto, North Carolina. Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory was formally established in 1934 and represents one of the longest continuous environmental studies on any landscape in North America. Specialists and managers dealing with watershed issues should be interested in following the development and results of future conferences.

/s/
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